

Memorandum

Date: March 27, 2002
Telephone: ATSS (916) 653-1227
File:

To: Robert A. Laurie, Presiding Member
William J. Keese, Associate Member

From: California Energy Commission - Lance Shaw *Lance Shaw 27 Mar. 02*
1516 Ninth Street Energy Commission Project Manager
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: **ROSEVILLE ENERGY FACILITY (REF) (01-AFC-14)**
STATUS REPORT #4

01-AFC-14
CALIF ENERGY COMMISSION
MAR 27 2002
RECEIVED IN DOCKETS

Staff filed a third set of data requests on March 4, 2002. Though staff has received several data response installments from the applicant, some of the data requests had not been fully addressed. Based on the applicant's March 15, 2002 filing, we understand that the applicant plans to respond to all remaining data requests by July 1, 2002.

The applicant filed its Western Area Power Administration (Western) System Impact Study (SIS) on January 25, 2002. Western concluded that the "The proposed interconnection is feasible only if ...transmission lines reconfiguration and upgrades are implemented as noted"...in the study. Staff believes approximately 10 new or modified transmission lines and the replacement of overstressed circuit breakers are required.

In the third set of data requests, staff requested that the applicant provide identification of the full build out of facilities necessary to connect the project to the electrical transmission grid. The applicant was asked to include an engineering description of the facilities and the environmental setting, impacts, and mitigation measures for all electrical transmission routes and resulting facility modifications. Until these data responses are received, no significant environmental or engineering analysis of the new and upgraded lines can be accomplished.

In the March 15 data response filing, the applicant stated that it is working with the area utilities to determine impacts and mitigation (system upgrades) to connect the project to the system. Applicant also stated that it believes **alternate methods of connection** exist that would lessen the environmental impacts from construction and operation.

Staff continues to coordinate with the applicant, Western Area Power Administration, California Independent System Operator (Cal-ISO), area utilities and the Sacramento Area Transmission Planning Group to secure a timely definition of the Roseville Energy Facility project. At present it appears a complete definition of the project will not be available until July 1, 2002.

The applicant also stated that, with respect to natural gas delivery, it is working with Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) to select an alternate route for the proposed gas line that it believes will involve fewer environmental impacts than the routes proposed by PG&E. The applicant further stated that each of these gas and electrical transmission linears requires spring biological surveys, cultural, and paleontological studies.

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED _____) FILED WITH

ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 3/27/02

A.H.

It is staff's understanding that the applicant is conducting the necessary field surveys for the natural gas pipeline and the various transmission line segments that must be upgraded.

Schedule

The applicant's schedule, as proposed in the March 15 data response filing, is quite optimistic. If the applicant responds to staffs' remaining data requests on July 1, 2002, as stated, staff will be reviewing material, which would normally have been in the Application for Certification (AFC), for the first time. As a result of seeing this AFC supplemental material, data responses, and field survey results for the first time, staff may need to issue additional data requests and conduct a workshop on the data responses. The applicant's responses to staff's first three sets of data requests lead staff to believe that more than a few weeks beyond the July 1, 2002 filing will be required for staff to issue its Preliminary Staff Assessment/ Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Future Workshops

Staff has scheduled a workshop on April 3, 2002 to discuss data responses from the applicant. Staff will also address questions the applicant, intervenors, or the public may have regarding the third set of staff's data requests. Staff expects to make some progress in resolving issues areas.

cc: Roseville Energy Facility Proof of Service list